

HOUSE RESOLUTION 241
By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Catherine Sue Davis Stults on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of service; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Sue Davis Stults is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for twenty-three years as the Executive Director of the Sequatchie Valley Planning and Development Agency, a federally funded, nonprofit agency dedicated to providing quality educational services for children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Sue Stults was born in Hixson, Tennessee, and graduated from Hixson High School, where she was recognized for both her sports and academic achievement; she was named "Miss Hixson" in her senior year, and although she was Captain of the cheerleading team, she also excelled in basketball, and her love of that sport has continued as her children and grandchildren have also enjoyed basketball and been superior players of the sport; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Ms. Stults worked in an insurance office and later a physician's office, where she met her future husband, Wayne Stults; they married in 1964 and moved to Pikeville, where her husband was employed at the local hospital, and Bledsoe County became her home; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, employed as a clerk by the nonprofit organization then known as the Regional Child Development Project, she rose quickly through the ranks, soon serving as Director of Finance; shortly after this organization merged with the Sequatchie Valley Planning and Development Agency, in 1985 it was awarded management of the Head Start program for five counties: Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Rhea, and Grundy counties; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Sue Stults was named Executive Director of the program, which has the only National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited

centers in the five-county area; during her tenure, the program has been responsible for the renovation of three abandoned public school buildings, and has grown from having an office upstairs above a child care center in a charming house into being an outstanding Head Start and Child Care program with fourteen excellent facilities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Stults has served with acumen and alacrity as a valued executive of the Sequatchie Valley Planning and Development Agency; she has formed a large number of friendships and improved the quality of life for many children and their families during her many years of devoted service; and

WHEREAS, after more than thirty-four years of service with twenty-three years spent as Executive Director, Sue Stults will take a much deserved retirement; she plans to work as a consultant, and looks forward to spending more time with her family; and

WHEREAS, her distinguished resume and professional accomplishments aside, Sue Stults is most grateful for the devotion and support of her family. She is the mother of three children, all born in Bledsoe County: two daughters, Susan Warden and husband, Jim, and Cynthia Rainey; and son, Michael, and wife, Candi; and the doting grandmother of Kelly and Taylor Warden, Leah and Kadie Rainey, and Briley Stults; and

WHEREAS, she continues to miss the love and companionship of her late husband, Wayne, to whom she was married for almost forty years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Stults is an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church of Pikeville, where she has assumed various roles focusing on work with children; and

WHEREAS, Sue Stults exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; as an ambassador for the Sequatchie Valley, she is always willing to share her love of the community and her church; and

WHEREAS, throughout her estimable career, Ms. Stults has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her staff, her colleagues, her community, and the citizens of Marion, Sequatchie, Bledsoe, Rhea and Grundy counties; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and recognize Catherine Sue Davis Stults for her meritorious service to the citizens of the

Sequatchie Valley and the great State of Tennessee, particularly the children, and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.